



Another Man's Shoes
by Ellie Targett

General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

7 February

China's ancient and modern wonders

by Ray Sturdy

6 March

Bletchley Park

by Robert Skelt

3 April

The Cuffley Airship

by John Higgs

Tea Rota

February 7 : Family History 1

March 6 : Family History 2

April 3 : 5 Rhythms Dance

New members

This month we welcome the following new members:

Olivia Bovill

Geoffrey Lappington

John Sims

Chris Watson

Today, 3 January

To start the year Ellie Targett will tell us about her father's experiences during World War II, when he joined the resistance movement. The talk is very visual with slides, books and costumes and one or two 'surprises'.

In February we shall hear about an intriguing mixture of traditional and modern life. China has stunning scenery, vast rivers, bustling cities, many ornate royal palaces, and, at Xian, the amazing Terracotta Warriors.

In April our own U3A member John Higgs will tell us a story from the First World War - we will hear about the first shooting down of a German airship raider over British soil.

Good News for Pétanque players: see page 15

Editor's Note – change of email address

For newsletter input please start using the email address
editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk

My personal email address will still be in use, but this is to enable a spreading of the workload during 2012.

Newsletter Delivery

There are three ways for you to receive your Newsletter.

- Use the website www.fairfordu3a.org.uk and click on Newsletters. You will also receive a reminder email when it is available on the website, usually the Friday before the main meeting.
- Pick it up from the meeting, but please don't rely on other people delivering it for you unless you have asked them. A lot of members have been going out of the way to deliver Newsletters recently.
- or by post, bearing in mind postage is 36p (7 old shillings) to post!

Please let me know any changes in your preferred method of Newsletter delivery for 2012

Alison Hobson
01285 711768
editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Attached to your Newsletter you will find an envelope containing a renewal form with Gift Aid declaration. Please deal with this as soon as possible and return the addressed envelope to me before or at the February meeting.

If you are not renewing, please let me know so that I can amend the membership list. I shall then be sure of your intentions.

Ivor Price
Membership Secretary
01285 712417
mr.ivor.price@gmail.com

'People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas.'

Author Unknown

U3A December

Pat and Mike Ledbury, under the name 'Morning Dew', played traditional music to Fairford U3A members in June, mainly using the melodeon and a replica Napoleonic battle drum. They returned in December with a Victorian Christmas entertainment which once more enlightened, educated, exercised and entertained.

They began with the Sans Day carol from St Day in the parish of Gwennap, Cornwall, after which Mike wove a story about a family singing and storytelling around the winter fire. Using names that were tellingly Victorian - Jesse, Caleb and Emma, for example - he skilfully introduced each character and their party pieces, such as the story of The Mistletoe Bough and its connection with Minster Lovell, The Miner's Dream of Home, and Keep that Wheel A-turning. This ensured a varied programme and spoke of the loves, lives and dilemmas of a big family. One son wanted to marry and emigrate to New Zealand, hence we heard the Maori Farewell. A young neighbour, returning from the Marines, inspired the inclusion of the Soldiers' Hornpipe. Flaunting a gold earring, he might have caused a slight stir in the drawing room but this was easily explained as his 'funeral money'. Had he died at sea the Captain would have charged a fee for reading the last rites.

As a finale Mike revealed that the story was based on his connections with Redditch needle-making families: Shrimpton, Kirby and Harris. With a flourish he waved in the air a small flute and a piccolo that had belonged to his great-uncle, Jesse.

Sylvia Jones

*'Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.'*

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1850

Committee Vacancies

Last month our Chairman Reg Thoburn wrote to encourage members to volunteer to become committee members. As a former Chairman, I would like to support what he had to say.

We now have a membership of over 300. Many longer standing members have already served on the Committee, in some cases for long periods and in more than one position. Some of them took on these jobs quite soon after joining U3A. Being a comparatively new member is no bar to offering your services! Indeed, our Chairman and Programme Secretary did exactly that.

We all benefit from our U3A membership. Please consider volunteering to help ensure that this continues to be possible.

Rosemary Westlake
Chairman 2002-2005

Solo Group

My idea is to make this not only a social gathering but also a self-help group. We might discuss matters only single or widowed people would think about, perhaps loneliness, loss of confidence in certain situations, the need to get out and about in company, not on one's own.

I know from my own experience that weekends and holiday times are difficult. Your children and friends have their own lives to lead, and although you are always welcomed you like to be invited. And of course all the normal social happenings cease at holiday times, and you find you haven't seen or spoken to anyone for a day or two, especially during the dark nights of the winter months.

My thinking was well summed up when talking to a member, after the December meeting, who thought it was a good idea and said, 'If I were to cook Sunday lunch would you help me hang pictures?' What a good idea; I could well take up that offer.

Please get in touch with any ideas you might have and we'll see if we can get this group up and running.

Michael Johnson
01285 712637
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

GROUP EVENTS

Please contact the group leaders listed below each entry if you are interested in joining any of the groups or visit www.fairfordu3a.org.uk for further information.

Biography

The committee are seeking a new leader for this relatively new Group, as Kevin Hannigan is no longer able to lead it. A small group, but with very enjoyable discussions at meetings to date. If any member could take Kevin's place we should be very grateful; please contact me or any member of the Committee.

Meantime we thank Kevin for his work in establishing the Group. The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday 3rd February**, at Iris Pierce's home in Lechlade.

Michael Yorke
Group Co ordinator
01367 253286

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 10 January

We shall meet at my home to discuss 'Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire' by Amanda Foreman.

Please let me know if you are unable to come.

Denny Rawlinson
01285 711009

Birdwatching

Tuesday 17 January

Happy New Year to all our readers! Our first visit this year will be to Slimbridge to see the wintering geese and swans and, hopefully, the bitterns if they are still around and decide to show themselves. Meet at Fairford car park at 9am. As usual we shall have lunch in their restaurant. There is an entrance fee for non-WWT members. The suggested passenger contribution is £3.

Richard Morgan
01285 712085

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 17 January

We shall meet at Jean's house at 2.30pm to discuss 'A Week in December' by Sebastian Faulks, led by Jean Moulden. Please let Jean (not me as I shall be away!) know if you will be unable to attend on 01285 713308.

Please note that this is a week later than our normal date.

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com

Bridge Improvers

We resume our weekly meetings on Monday 9th January in the Heritage Room at the Community Centre from 2-4pm, for a lesson and friendly practice play. All those who play bridge and would like to improve are welcome, partners and refreshments provided.

Margaret Bishop
01285 713747
mbishop@talktalk.net

Chess

Wednesday 25 January

The next meeting of the Chess Group will be at 3.30pm at Mike's house.

Contact details below for more information.

Mike Bennett
01367 252379
mish252379@btinternet.com

Five Rhythms Dance

Wednesday 18 January

We dance regularly at the Palmer Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, at 10am. New members welcome.

Gillian Bilbrough
01285 712579
Joyce Deane
01285 851408

Family History 1

Wednesday 18 January

This month we shall be meeting at Alison's house at 2.30pm. Alison will be telling us all about her 'black sheep' ancestor, T A Jackson, with perhaps a little palaeography to follow.

Miriam Scott
01285 713441
Alison Hobson
01285 711768

Family History 2

Wednesday 18 January

Our January meeting will be at Glenda's home at 2.30pm. Glenda has kindly agreed to tell us about the history of her cottage and the people who lived in it. She has spent a great deal of time researching the history of her cottage. It should be a fascinating story.

Michael Johnson
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

'I'm a little bit older, a little bit wiser, a little bit rounder, but still none the wiser.'

Robert Paul

French Conversation

Intermediate

Bonne Année à tous!
Our first meeting of 2012 will be held at my home on Monday 9th January.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact me. You would be very welcome.

Rosemary Westlake
01285 712329
idrwestlake@gmail.com

Advanced

We start by reading a couple of pages from a magazine published for groups like ours, and then discuss matters arising from that, and anything else that takes our fancy! This is done in two small groups of generally not more than six people. New members are always welcome!

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com

Geology

The Geology group meets regularly at the Chapel in Milton Street on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm.

Clive Watson
01285 713003

Garden Group

Thursday 19 January

I hope very much that a good number of you will be free to come to my house to enjoy some tea and cake so that we can put our heads together to plan the year ahead. Hopefully, after the December break, we shall all be reinvigorated and full of new ideas!

As it will still be getting dark early may I suggest that we meet at 2pm.

Penny Phillips
01785 711360

German Circle

Please contact Karin for further details.

Karin Forman
01367 252675

Keep Fit

We meet each Tuesday at 9.15am at Fairford Community Centre.

Eddie Rosser
01367 252504

'Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.'

Bill Vaughan

Latin

Thursday 5 January

The group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at my house. Please contact me if you are unable to come.

Susan Greig
01285 810274

Model Group

The Model group meets each Thursday morning.

For further details please contact:

Jim Sullivan
01367 252539

Music Listening

Friday 20 January

We shall be meeting at 2.30pm at Mary's home and bringing a favourite piece of music to share.

Mary Chick
01285 712126

Needlework

The Needlework group will meet on 4th and 18th January, at the Chapel.

For further details please contact:

Thelma Hardie
01285 713971

Philosophy

Wednesday 18 January

We shall meet at my house in Poulton. The subject will be 'Progress'.

Dan Deane
01285 851408
Group leader: Bula Brazil

Poetry Circle 1

Friday 6 January

The next meeting will be at Ian and Rosemary's house at 3pm and the subject will be 'Americana'.

Barbara Cottam
01285 711054
Rosemary Westlake
01285 712329

Poetry Circle 2

Friday 6 January

We shall be meeting at Denny's home at 2.30 pm. Our theme is the Dymock Poets.

For enquiries please phone:

Mary Chick
01285 712126

The Dymock poets were an early 20th century literary group who made their home near the village of Dymock in Gloucestershire. Wikipedia

Postcard Group

Tuesday 17 January

The first meeting of the New Year will be at my house as usual at 2.30pm. Alison will give a presentation on the publisher Henry Taunt and we shall also look at some other publishers and their cards. The month's theme letter is "G".

John Higgs
01285 712488

Recorders

Our next meetings will be Friday afternoons the 13th and 27th January. As usual, we'll be starting with our treble class (everyone welcome) from 2-2.30pm followed by the main group at 2.30 to finish at 4.30 with a break for tea. We'll be in the Farmor room on the ground floor of the Fairford Community Centre.

If there are any more recorder players who would like to join a friendly, non-judgemental group, we have some spare instruments we could lend you.

Hilary Bradshaw
01793 720037
hilary@burytown15.co.uk
Jay Mathews
01367 253510
jaymathews124@mac.com

Rummikub

Thursday 12 January

The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2-4.30pm for some friendly games of Rummikub. New members will be welcome.

For further information or explanation please refer to the Fairford U3A website or telephone me.

Mary Bennett
01367 253287

Short Tennis

Short Tennis takes place in the Palmer Hall on Mondays, starting at 3.30pm.

If you are interested please contact me or come to a session and find out more.

Margaret Trickett
01285 712421

Spanish

This Spanish group is for beginners, but those with some Spanish are welcome! Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings, 11-12 noon, at my home.

Frank Hall
01285 712583
fkhall@talktalk.net

Straddlers

At our annual walk meeting on 9th December we decided not to do a Straddlers walk in January. The next Straddlers walk will be on 16th February. In future the Straddlers walks will be 8-10 miles long – slightly shorter than we have walked in the past. No other changes were planned for either group.

John Burrows
01367 253056

Strollers

Friday 27 January

The first walk of 2012 will start at The Keepers Arms in Quenington, across the fields to Donkey Well Farm, back via Coln St Aldwyns. There are no stiles, but it might be muddy in places, and is approximately three miles. The pub opens at 12noon and we shall order when we get back.

Meet in Fairford car park at 10am or at the pub at 10.15. Suggested passenger fare £1.

Ann Wightman 712723

Striders

Tuesday 24 January

This year's programme will commence with a six-mile circular walk from Cirencester to Baunton. The walk was put together by Cirencester Ramblers in 2010 utilising footpaths through Harebushes Wood which had been closed for almost 200 years but now reopened to the public by the Chestermaster family. Originally part of the Whiteway, the paths lead out towards Baunton and are level, just a couple of stiles, and there should be little or no mud but as this is the twenty first century there is some traffic noise in places.

As it is January, I suggest bringing a flask of coffee and I will arrange lunch at either The Nelson or The Waggon and Horses depending on which has the best January 'offer' – both have been doing discounts recently such as '2 mains for £9.95.'

Meet Fairford Car Park 9.30am or at 11 Corinium Gate Cirencester at 9.45am (free parking on my drive for the first five cars). Travel fee £1.50.

Graham Baber
01285 650961

Group leader: Phil Trickett

Traditional Jazz

Thursday 5 January

The group usually meets on the first Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2-4.30pm.

This month will feature examples of New Orleans marching bands. This will include solemn music for funeral journeys to the cemetery followed by life enhancing music celebrating the departure from the hard life on earth to the joy of heaven. We will also listen to the music of modern street parade bands. **Please note that next month we shall meet on 2nd February before the General Meeting.**

All U3A members are welcome.

Ian Bennett
01367 253287
ian@bennettm.gotadsl.co.uk

Walking and Pub Lunch

Wednesday 11 January

The walk starts from the car park at The Lamb Inn, Crawley, Oxon OX29 9TW, from where we walk for a short distance to The Old Crawley Mill, having crossed the River Windrush at the hump back bridge, from there we veer off left down the bridleway. We follow this route until we meet and cross the main road and go down through the picturesque woods. Fairly steep incline so bring walking sticks as it can be quite slippery.

We then go via two bridges to get to the ruins of Minster Lovell Hall. Here we stop for closer inspection of this 1500 complex before exiting via the churchyard to the T junction.

We turn right in the direction of Crawley before taking the bridleway on our right. We follow this all the way back to The Lamb Inn. This is a lovely pub where we can order our lunch before commencing the walk. Amongst the varied menu are a two-course meal for £9.95 or a Ramblers Banquet at the same cost.

This is a generally flat walk with only ONE stile and is very worthwhile.

Meet at the car park at Fairford for 9.45am departure or at The Lamb Inn at 10.20am.

Car passenger charge at £2 as distance is 16 miles approximately.

John Yorke
01367 253596/07546 818485
John.yorke@mail.com

Yoga

The first 2012 meeting of the weekly Yoga group will be on Monday 9th January in the Community Centre at 10.15am.

Sylvia Jones
01285 712657

'A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.' Author Unknown

GROUP REVIEWS

Poetry Circle 1

We were due to meet at Barbara's home, to read our poems about 'Protest', but sadly she was unwell and we met instead at the Westlakes' house. Our numbers were depleted since Ian and Marie, too, were not able to join us.

The general feeling was that this had been quite a difficult topic. Many of the chosen poems involved politics and had a tendency to be rather depressing. It was very evident that 'nothing changes' – some of the poems could well have been written about our own difficult economic times.

Celia had chosen a piece by Billy Bragg, which read well although written to be sung. Today, William Morris, Alison's choice, is thought of first for his work with the Arts and Design movement, so it was good to hear his views on the events of his day powerfully expressed in poetry. John's choice was Shelley, protesting about the Peterloo Massacre. Donald's 'protester' was William Blake.

For me, the most moving poem of the afternoon was that of Russian poet Irina Ratushinskaya, 'I Will Live and Survive', chosen by Joyce. Here was a protest about the appalling conditions suffered by those like Ratushinskaya who challenged the Soviet regime and were sent to labour camps for doing so.

Being few in number, we had time to read second poems. And then it was time for mince pies!

Rosemary Westlake

*'What is this, the sound and rumour? What is this that all men hear,
Like the wind in hollow valleys when the storm is drawing near,
Like the rolling on of ocean in the eventide of fear?
'Tis the people marching on.'*

From March of the Workers in Chants for Socialists by William Morris, 1885

Recorders

It was a shame not more members attended the Christmas concert at the last Recorder Group meeting of the term. Fourteen players entertained six members of the audience.

Jay first introduced the recorder family: descant, treble, tenor, bass, great bass and contra bass. Then followed a varied selection of pieces mainly dating from the 15th to the 17th century (the heyday of the recorder), arrangements by Thomas Morley (1558-1603), a spirited rendition of Gathering Peascods (Playford 1623-86) (peascods being pea pods), Handel's Where'er you Walk which took me back to school choir days, and the wonderful tear-jerking Coventry Carol arranged by Ann Marshall who is a regular visiting conductor of the Group.

Arranging music for the recorder is a specialist art and Jack Brothwell, a member of the Group, had arranged In Dulce Jubilo, Let it Snow and Unto us a Boy is Born; the latter arrangement gave each type of recorder an opportunity to take up the melody. The words of In Dulce Jubilo were written in Medieval German, the tune being written later. We also learned the term *macaronic*, the words being in a mixture of Latin and English.

It was a delightful pre-Christmas entertainment and thoroughly enjoyed by the small audience, who also enjoyed the delicious post-performance refreshments. Thanks go to Phil Trickett who sang us his 'Poacher's Christmas' at the end of the get-together. It was a great treat, as always. Thanks to Jay and Hilary, the Group leaders, and to the rest of the ensemble.

But I did miss Frosty the Snowman!

Alison Hobson



Walking and Pub Lunch

The weather looked doubtful on the morning of the December walk. It had rained heavily during the night and the forecast was not good; it was not long before the first walkers phoned to cancel. Let's not be negative, I thought, the weather could improve.

Other hardy U3A members were met at the car park in Fairford at 9.30am as arranged and we set off for The Crown Inn at Cerney Wick where we would make a final decision. Eight walkers met at the pub and, despite the squally rain, decided to walk for fifteen minutes and then review the situation. The pub sent a representative to take our lunch orders before we started, but we explained that, as we might have to cut the walk short, we would order our lunches if we completed the walk. So off we set. We experienced heavy rain, snow and wind in the first half hour of the walk in very muddy conditions underfoot. Three times we stopped to vote should we backtrack and return, but each time all voted to continue.

Eventually the rain and snow stopped, the sun made an appearance and we were rewarded with a lovely walk along the canal towpath and around South Cerney. Two hours later we were sitting in the pub feeling very smug, enjoying a well-earned drink. We ordered our lunch, pleased that we had made the effort.

Reg Thoburn

Pétanque

Good news! We should like thank all of you who gave your green tokens from Waitrose during October. They gave us a cheque for £145, plus another £20 from Touch of Glass.

We should like to thank the Fairford Town Charity who have kindly given us £350. The Leclade and District Lions have also offered to contribute £250. Thanks to all of these contributions our financial target has almost been reached. Hopefully construction of our new piste should be under way in early Spring ready for the start of the 2012 season.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year

Dave and Heather Baber

Timetable of Group Activities

Monthly: Chess on a Wednesday. Needlework and Recorders meet twice monthly. Pétanque and Cycling April-October only.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Monday	French Yoga	French Yoga	French Yoga	French Yoga
am				
pm	Bridge Short tennis	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis
Tuesday	Keep Fit	Keep Fit Spanish	Keep Fit Bird watching	Keep Fit Spanish Striders
am				
pm	Main meeting	Book Circle 1 Book Circle 2	Postcards	
Wednesday	Pétanque	Walking & PL Pétanque	Five Rhythms Pétanque	Cycling & PL Pétanque
am				
pm		Geology	Family History 1 Family History 2 Philosophy	Chess
Thursday	Model Boats	Model making	Model Boats Straddlers	Model Boats
am				
pm	Latin Traditional Jazz	Rummikub	Garden	
Friday				Strollers
am				
pm	Poetry Circle Poetry Two	Recorders	Music	Recorders



Please send items for the
February
 issue to Alison Hobson email:
editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk
 01285 711768
 no later than
Thursday
20th January